

# TOWN MANAGER'S WEEKLY REPORT TO THE COUNCIL

Week ending July 21, 2011



Richard L. Davis, ICMA-CM

## Dear Mayor & Council:

This was a week of wrap-up, with the early completion of the August Ave-NEWS, fourth quarter report completion, various departmental and citizen meetings, and some council one-on-ones. Even as I write this, I am involved in assisting a local business with a sales tax question/issue. As the departmental portions of this report will indicate, there is a lot of infrastructure work being carried forward as well. I am very pleased with the progress of the downtown street work, and especially pleased with the work on the Shea Gap.

Though I have expressed this before, I want to again thank you for the privilege of serving with you over the more than three years. I am proud of what we have accomplished together. Without your support and diligence, the storms of the last few years would have, as they did in so many towns across the country, devastated our community. I wish you all the very best. Please call upon me if I can ever be of assistance.

Take care and stay in touch.

Here's what's happening in the Town:

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### Community Center

The Center was open for thirty-three events this week, for a total of 52.5 hours out of a potential 87 hours and a 60.3% utilization rate.

### Senior Services

On Tuesday, July 19, Senior Services hosted an **Ice Cream Social** from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. The event was sponsored by Schwan's Foods and Spooner & Shaft Physical Therapy. The event was very successful with approximately 150 attendees. The attendees enjoyed building their own sundaes and socializing with other Activity Center members.

On Wednesday, July 20, Senior Services hosted an **Armchair Travelogue** entitled, "Native Americans Then and Now." The travelogue provided an overview of Native American settings in Arizona. After the Travelogue, participants discussed possible trip options for the fall.

### Parks

The Parks Division had some minor cleanup after the recent dust storm. The outdoor amenities at each park facility had to be blown off and wiped down to remove the dust that was deposited. Walking paths, ramadas, and outdoor court surfaces had to be cleaned as well.

Staff also completed the GEP irrigation pump repair on Tuesday July 19. The landscaped areas and ball-fields are being irrigated and will look great for the Piastewa Native American Softball Tournament that will be held from Friday, July 22, to Sunday, July 24.

Fountain pump #1 was removed on Tuesday morning, July 19, to undergo a maintenance/repair inspection by Precision Electric. They will disassemble and inspect the pump, perform a test run of the motor, supply an inspection report on the pump condition, and recommended repairs to the equipment.



## Recreation

The **Lori Piestewa National Native American Games**, organized by Grand Canyon State Games, kicks off its 10<sup>th</sup> year of competition in Fountain Hills this weekend. For the sixth year in a row, Community Services staff will be on-site to help facilitate the softball games, which will be held on all fields at Golden Eagle Park beginning on Friday night. There are a total of 34 softball teams participating this year, which includes 18 coed teams, 9 men's teams, and 7 women's teams. There will be 67 games played this weekend. According to Executive Director Erik Widmark, this could be the largest field of athletes to ever compete in the games.

The last **Party in the Park** of the summer will be held on Thursday, July 28, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Golden Eagle Park. The event is geared for kids entering grades 6-9. There will be music and lots of fun activities and games.

Registrations are still being accepted for programs scheduled to begin over the next month, including **CPR/AED for the Community and Workplace** and **Jr. Golf Lessons**, among others.

**Community Garden**— Staff met this week with the Community Garden Committee of the Greening of Downtown group to discuss their project. The group remains interested in seeking the Town's support to be able to utilize the area adjacent to the Library that is temporarily housing the new trash receptacles. The Committee is interested in not only developing a community garden where space could be rented by individuals to grow their own produce in elevated beds, but the group also envisions a retail sales area and a cooking demonstration area utilizing produce grown in the garden. The Committee would also like to offer instructions on gardening to the public, including adults and youth. The Committee will be making a presentation to the Town Council at the August 9 Work-Study meeting.

**Public Art**— The art piece entitled *Power of Thought* was craned by the contractor from its temporary base to the new permanent base in the center of the Centennial Circle this week and the temporary base has been removed. An additional piece of public art will be offered as a donation to the Town through the **Public Art Committee** at the August 4 Council meeting. The piece is a bronze sculpture of an eagle, entitled *America*, by Native American artist Doug Hyde. Placement in the Centennial Circle is being proposed.

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT

### Planning and Zoning

The Concept Plan for Sundevil Auto's expansion was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission on July 14. Sundevil Auto is located in Bashas' Plaza. This application will expand the vehicle repair area by adding an additional 1,855 square feet. The Building Permit application is currently under review.

The Fountain Hills Wellness Center, located on Verde River Drive in Plat 208, is requesting a Special Use Permit to allow the establishment of a residential unit on-site. This application is scheduled to be heard by the Planning and Zoning Commission on July 28 and by the Town Council on August 18.

The Sunflower Foundation has requested a Temporary Use Permit for an Outdoor Charity Event called "Operation Home Front." The event is proposed to be held in the parking lot of Plat 202 on November 5. The TUP application is currently pending the required 10-day objection period. If no objection is filed, staff will issue the permit. If an objection is received, staff will schedule a hearing with the Town Council for a final decision.

### GIS

CAD/GIS Division continues updating Fountain Hills Sanitary Sewer Underground Utility Atlas maps in CAD. Work continues on the ongoing accident report log being inserted into Intersection Magic.

### Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement has opened 32 cases so far for the month of July.

No new green pools have been reported during the past week. Staff closed six green pools cases so far this month by gaining voluntary compliance from lenders, owners and property management companies.

Several vehicle parking, landscaping and other minor complaints have been received recently. Most turned out not to be violations.

A fatality accident on Fountain Hills Blvd. resulted in the destruction of both a Town street sign and a large palo verde tree on the side of the road. Code Enforcement staff have recommended that the downed tree be removed as soon as possible to limit potential hazards.

#### Environmental

Staff attended a two-day grant application development workshop hosted by Military Affairs and Emergency Management. The workshop was held in conjunction with the upcoming grant opportunity for hazardous mitigation activity that is being offered through the Arizona Department of Emergency Management. Grant monies, if awarded to the Town, would be used for hazardous fuels reduction activity, which is part of our wash maintenance program.

#### Building Safety

The Building Safety Division issued Building Permits to Target and Meridian Bank, who have started construction for remodeling. Safeway has submitted an application for a remodel of their pharmacy area. Sundevil Auto submitted an application for an addition to expand their vehicle repair area. Staff issued two Building Permits for new single family homes in Eagles Nest.

#### Streets

Pavement markings will be completed this week on the streets receiving slurry seal and tire rubber modified surface seal treatments in the Sunridge Canyon, North Heights and downtown areas.

Restriping is currently underway on the recently slurry sealed streets in the downtown area.

#### Engineering

The contractor on the Shea Gap Overlay project has placed the aggregate base for the southerly bike lane, and is completing median landscaping. Next week, they will be removing/repaving several deteriorated asphalt areas, primarily in the westbound lanes. Traffic control will be shifted as needed. The advance message boards currently advise motorists of this upcoming work. They will be closing this segment of Shea Blvd. overnight on August 3, 4, and 5 to mill and place the rubberized asphalt overlay in both the eastbound and westbound traffic lanes.

Initial construction plan review is underway for the Ellman project's relocation of McDowell Mountain Road. The road will be constructed to the Town's Minor Arterial design standard - two traffic lanes, a bike lane, and a detached sidewalk in each direction with a landscaped median and frontage areas. The plans also show grading, drainage, and pavement at the proposed park areas.

### **ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT**

#### Finance

**Licensing**—A total of six new Business Licenses were issued.

##### In Town:

Precision Pyrotechnics Inc. - 15737 East Yucca Dr  
Outside the Box AZ, LLC - 15911 East Jericho Dr

##### Out of Town:

Western Signs & Lighting, LLC - Mesa, AZ  
Grill Groomers, LLC - Scottsdale, AZ  
Gredler Enterprises Inc. DBA Signline - Mesa, AZ  
RJM Construction of AZ, LLC DBA RJM Commercial Construction - Scottsdale, AZ